

offer programs nationwide that offer our severely injured soldiers opportunities to rebuild their lives.

Disabled Sports USA, established in 1967 by disabled Vietnam veterans to serve the war injured, has expanded to provide rehabilitative sports programs to anyone with a permanent disability.

America Supports You was launched in November, 2004, by the Department of Defense, and built a network of supporters that writes letters, sends care packages and helps the wounded when they return home.

And the PGA, America's largest working sports organization, comprised of 28,000 men and women dedicated to growing, teaching and managing the game of golf, has throughout its 91-year history provided instruction and equipment to the military and employment opportunities to veterans.

I am proud to recognize these four organizations that are doing so much to aid our honored veterans. I hope my fellow members of Congress share my passion for the Military Golf Program. The program, and its purpose of giving back to those who so nobly served our country, is worthy of our praise.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, February 5th, the Department of Defense made a request for the resources and flexibility required to successfully prosecute the Global War on Terror. For 3½ months Congress has failed in this fundamental, constitutional responsibility. Today, I am pleased to finally support H.R. 2206, the FY 2007 Iraq and Afghanistan War Supplemental Appropriations bill. I believe this legislation strikes the right balance of unfettered access to resources by our military and the establishment of guiding benchmarks for the new Iraqi government. In addition, I applaud the inclusion of disaster relief funding for Greensburg, Kansas, and an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

I want to thank Chairman OBEY and Ranking Member LEWIS for their hard work on this legislation. Putting aside political grandstanding and maneuvering, we have finally come together to produce legislation that provides our soldiers with the funding they need, while providing the flexibility our commanders in Iraq require—showing the commitment of this Congress to success in Iraq and the broader War on Terror.

Our Soldiers and Marines are in desperate need of funding for essential procurement items, operations and maintenance, and military paychecks and benefits. Among other things, this legislation will fuel our trucks, feed our soldiers, provide imminent danger pay, and arm them against our nation's enemies. This funding comes without unrealistic and dangerous strings that could have placed lives of our servicemen and women in jeopardy.

This Congress is finally showing its commitment to success in the Global War on Terror.

We must never forget that this war was started by Muslim extremists and has been waged against the United States and its citizens since the 1970s. However, almost every skirmish and battle prior to the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 found the United States on the defensive and on the losing side. Does this House remember the killing of 241 Marines in Beirut in 1983? The U.S. Embassy bombing in Lisbon in 1986? The first World Trade Center bombing in 1993? The Khobar Towers bombing in 1996? The bombing of our U.S. Embassies in Africa in 1998? Or the bombing of the USS *Cole* in 2000? Our ignorance of these events culminated in the attacks on September 11th, 2001. Each one of these was a battle in this war we now face. I hope this House finally understands we cannot win this war on the defensive.

The terrorists took the fight to us for decades; now we must take the fight to the terrorists. I do not want this war. But rest assured—this war will happen regardless of our presence in Iraq or Afghanistan. The question is, "Does this fight happen on the streets of Baghdad or the streets of New York City or Wichita, Kansas?" We must take the fight to the enemy. We must stay on the offense. Fortunately, this legislation now allows the United States to stay on the offensive in this global struggle.

In addition to providing critical funding for our military, this legislation provides \$40 million of disaster relief funding for Greensburg, Kansas, which was completely destroyed during a recent tornado. The most devastating natural disaster to strike Kansas in years, Greensburg is a city without schools, businesses, or houses. However, the people of Greensburg have a passion and vision to rebuild their town, and I am pleased that this Congress is committing the resources required to begin that process.

Mr. Speaker, I want to personally thank Chairman OBEY and Ranking Member LEWIS for working with me and the Kansas delegation to include this funding for Greensburg. The tornado took away so much from this community, but it did not take away the Kansan spirit of big dreams and hard work. Greensburg will be rebuilt, and the funding provided here today will help make that happen.

Not only do the people of Greensburg receive support in this legislation, but the workers in Wichita and around the country will receive a well-deserved pay raise. I stand in support of raising the Federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour in conjunction with providing associated tax relief for small businesses.

However, when dealing with the minimum wage, it is imperative that small businesses be provided with associated tax relief. When small and family-owned businesses are forced to shoulder increased costs, they have no choice but to hire fewer workers, reduce current worker benefits, and pass along the costs to consumers in the form of higher prices. Therefore, providing associated tax relief will allow the workers we intend to help keep their jobs. I applaud this bill for providing the minimum wage increase with the associated tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is facing great challenges from fighting the Global War on Terror to rebuilding communities devastated by natural disasters. By working together in a bipartisan approach, Congress can do the right

thing. This Iraq and Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations bill provides our troops the resources they need, helps rebuild Greensburg, and gives a well-deserved raise to \$5.6 million people. For that, I am pleased to offer my support.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN
EDWARD HARDMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Edward Hardman and The Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Unit at Centennial High School in Las Vegas, NV for being named the 2007 Navy League Most Outstanding Unit in the nation.

Captain Hardman oversees 215 cadets along with Senior Chief Tom Borders and Petty Officer Gail Johnson. The Naval JROTC Unit is in its sixth year at Centennial High School which received 7th overall in the nation at the NJROTC National Drill, Physical Fitness, and Academics Championships in Florida this past April. They were also awarded the Captain Jim Harvey Best School Sportsmanship/Spirit Award for the third time in four years; a feat no other school in the nation has ever accomplished.

Centennial High School's Naval JROTC Unit has been awarded the 2007 Navy League Most Outstanding (Best) Unit in the nation by the National Navy League, and is only the second unit in the nation to have been unanimously selected for this honor. The NJROTC program has 625 units throughout the world, including schools in Japan, Guam, and Spain.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Captain Edward Hardman and the Naval JROTC Unit at Centennial High School for their tremendous achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I took a leave of absence on June 6, 2007, as I was in my district on personal business. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

Suspension bills: "Yea," H.R. 1051, National STEM Scholarship Database Act; "Yea," H.R. 2559, Higher Education Act Extension Act of 2007; "Yea," H. Res. 421, honoring the trailblazing accomplishments of the "Mercury 13" women, whose efforts in the early 1960s demonstrated the capabilities of American women to undertake the human exploration of space; "Yea," H. Res. 446, honoring the life and accomplishments of Astronaut Walter Marty Schirra and expressing condolences on his passing; "Yea," H.R. 1467, 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act; "Yea," H.R. 1716, Green Energy Education Act of 2007; "Yea," H.R. 632, H-Prize Act of 2007; "Yea," H.R. 964, Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act; "Yea," H.R. 2560, Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2007.